



**April 2011**

**Dear Westford Residents,**



**Jodi Ross**  
Town Manager  
978-692-5500

jross@westfordma.gov  
www.westfordma.gov/tm

**Unwanted Medication and  
Sharps Disposal Day**

Residential Disposal Only  
No Commercial Disposal

NO QUESTIONS ASKED

Saturday, April 30, 2011  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cameron Senior Center  
20 Pleasant Street

**HEALTH FAIR AND CHILD  
SAFETY DAY**

Saturday, 5/21, 9am-12pm -  
Health Fair - Abbot Gym,  
11am-3pm - Child Safety  
Activities - school lawn and  
driveway

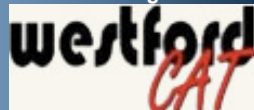
Location:  
Abbot School

Fee:  
Free

**Memorial Day May 29,  
2011**

Ceremonies start at  
Freedom Park @ 9 AM,  
Forge Village monument

Watch Meetings Online



www.westfordcat.org

Visit  
www.westfordma.gov  
for current news and  
information.

Our Annual Town Meeting was held on Saturday, March 26th and Monday, March 28th, with about 400 voters in attendance on Saturday and about 250 on Monday. If you were unable to attend, the full meeting is available to watch on our website [www.westfordma.gov](http://www.westfordma.gov). The town meeting took action on 37 warrant articles, the results of which are also on our website. The budget was discussed in great detail, and we expressed our concern with the town's budget sustainability, especially in light of continued reductions in state aid. Many of the town's expenses are not constant, just as our individual tax payer's are not. Although we continue to seek ways to improve our operations, and reduce expenses wherever possible, in some cases it is just not achievable.

I presented the annual "State of the Town" at town meeting, which described the shortfalls we are facing in the following fiscal year (FY2013), and some of the changes we are implementing to prepare for our FY13 anticipated deficit. One of our critical needs is to control our health insurance costs. We are currently in negotiations with all 13 town and school unions seeking their agreement to health plan design changes, which we have predicted will save the town approximately \$500,000 next year. In addition, we are currently reviewing proposals for legal services, we are seeking proposals for the town's general insurances, and we are selling surplus equipment to reduce operating expenses and seek additional revenue. The Public Works Initiative Committee is working diligently on finding efficiencies to achieve reductions in town and school facility and "public works" related expenses. The Budget Solutions Task Force will meet regularly throughout the coming year to examine what changes may be necessary to avoid a serious reduction in town services.

Our "Spotlight on Westford" continues, where Department Heads highlight activities and achievements of their individual departments in 5 minute segments during open forum on the selectmen's regular agenda. Richard Barrett, Highway Superintendent, will be discussing the state of the town's bridges at the selectmen's meeting on April 26th. These segments are also available on our town's website, as are all town recorded meetings via streaming video.

Recently John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager, created an online reporting form for residents to express their concerns and/or leave comments for us about the Pan Am Railways trains. We are already receiving many important remarks, so we may expand this communication method to other issues facing our town.

Spring is finally here, and while visiting East Boston Camps on Easter Sunday, I was impressed by the number of residents who were out enjoying the warmer weather by fishing, hiking, walking their dogs, or just enjoying the beauty of that wonderful property. We are fortunate to have such magnificent conservation parcels to explore. I encourage you to walk around these properties if you are able – trail maps are available at [www.westfordconservationtrust.org](http://www.westfordconservationtrust.org).

Sincerely,



Are you ready to start moving but need new activity ideas? Want to know some baseline health information by having your cholesterol, thyroid, blood sugar, blood pressure and pulmonary function screened? If so come join us for our town Health Fair and Child Safety Day! The fair will provide free health screenings, educational information on a variety of health issues, and food and exercise demonstrations.



The Westford Police Department will also be conducting their annual safety event which will include a bicycle rodeo, car seat check point and information on other child safety issues. Officers will assist children in learning the rules of the road and how to keep themselves safe while riding their bicycles, scooters, and skateboards. Pedestrian safety information will also be provided. Helmets will be checked to ensure they are appropriate for the child and that they fit properly and officers will be checking and installing car seats. Parents will be trained on how to properly install their car seats and assist them in that process. The goal is to ensure that each child is in an appropriate car seat and that seat is properly installed. Sponsors and vendors will be on hand to provide safety information for the whole family.

The day is co-sponsored by the Health Department, Emerson Hospital, Westford Police Department and numerous local businesses. Enjoy a day that will provide participants with fun filled educational and family activities.



**Date:**  
**Saturday, 5/21**

**Times:**  
**9am-12pm - Health Fair-Abbot Gym**  
**11am-3pm - Child Safety Activities- school lawn and driveway**

**Location:**  
**Abbot School**

**Fee:**  
**Free**



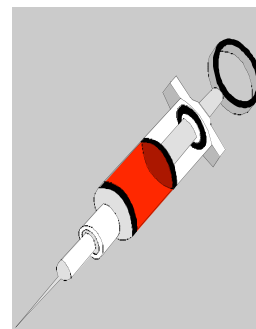
**When Was the Last Time You Cleaned Out Your Medicine Cabinet?**

- *Flushing medications down the toilet or the sink contaminates our water supplies.*
- *Drug residues have been found in rivers, lakes and our drinking water.*
- *The #1 place teens report getting drugs for the first time is in the family medicine cabinet.*
- *Unused prescription medications are often forgotten about, stolen and sold on the streets.*
- *42% of Opiate related deaths in 2009 listed prescription drugs!*
- *Get them out of your home if they are not currently being used for a medical condition! Dispose of unused medications properly!*
- *Get rid of used syringes and lancets (please bring in sharps or plastic containers)!!*

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20 Pleasant Street**



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For Questions call the Westford Board of Health at **978-692-5509**  
Or the Westford Police Department at **978-692-2161**



### Water Department News

#### Service Line Leaks and Repairs...

Westford Water Department customers are connected to the water main in the street by a pipe referred to as a service line. A service line is the pipe running from the water main in the street which includes a corporation stop, curbstop and curb box at or before the property line, a shutoff valve, meter and meter valve usually inside the cellar wall. See the diagram below for details.

Occasionally there can be some confusion over responsibility for service line repair costs.

To clarify, the Water Department is responsible for repairs to the water mains. Property owners (individual services) are responsible for the cost of any repairs to the service line from the water main through the meter (see above diagram). So, if a service line is leaking and needs to be fixed, the customer is responsible for paying the cost of the repair. This is explained in section C (7) of Westford Water Department Rules and Regulations:

"...Necessary repairs to meters and outside lines from the street main, including complete service replacement, are the responsibility of the owner, and bills submitted for these charges are payable upon presentation."

How can a customer know if they have a leak if the line is buried underground? Underground leaks can be hard to detect, but typical signs include water puddling in the yard, discolored water, and a loss of pressure. If you suspect a leak in your service line please call the Water Department immediately. The Department will dispatch personnel to determine if there is a leak. When a leak occurs on a service line the customer is responsible for making repairs at once. The Department will work with the customer to have the repair performed as quickly and inexpensively as possible. Payment plans are available for service line repairs – for details contact Business Manager Larry Panaro at 978-399-2453.

Be sure to visit the Water Department website ([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)) and click on "Rules and Regulations" for more information.

### Memorial Day 2011

Town wide celebration of Memorial Day will be held on Sunday, May 29th. Ceremonies will be conducted at Freedom Park @ 9 AM, Forge Village monument @ 9:15 AM, Graniteville monument on North Main St @ 9:45 and then at Nab Lake, Byrne Ave. dam at 10:30. On the Town Common, the reading of the Honor Rolls will begin at 11 AM. Culminating the ceremonies will be a parade starting at noon from the Roudenbush Community Center to the Town Common where various tributes will be given. Veterans who would like to participate should meet at the Cameron Senior Center at 8 AM on Sunday. All are encouraged to commemorate our US servicemen and servicewomen who have died in defense of our country on this holiday weekend. Join us if you can.